

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01 SAM-01

JUSE-00 DRC-01 /054 W

----- 004925

R 221222Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7812

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T WARSAW 1012

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS BY US MISSIONS OVERSEAS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIANCE NATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 28873; (B) WARSAW 0911; (C) STATE 34206

1. MEETING OF NATO CHIEFS OF MISSION IN WARSAW WERE
SUSPENDED SOME YEARS AGO, APPARENTLY AROUND THE TIME FRANCE
WITHDREW ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM NATO COMMAND. DESPITE
SPORADIC EFFORTS TO REVIVE THEM, FRENCH OBJECTIONS PRE-
VAILED AND, WHEN I ARRIVED HERE IN DECEMBER, 1972, THERE
WERE NO NATO MEETINGS. MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS OF
THE EC-9 HAD BEEN INSTITUTED AT SOME EARLIER TIME
(COINCIDENT, I BELIEVE, WITH THE EC EXPANSION) AND CON-
TINUE TO BE HELD, ALTHOUGH PARTICIPATING CHIEFS OF
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MISSION PLACE A LOW EVALUATION ON THEM, SINCE THE MEET-

INGS ROTATE AMONG THE RESIDENCES OF MEMBER COM'S AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY NOT HELD IN SECURE PREMISES. NATO SERVICE ATTACHES (INCLUDING THE FRENCH) MEET FREQUENTLY AND HARMONIOUSLY IN SECURE PREMISES FOR EXCHANGE OF MILITARY-INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. ADDITIONALLY, AN INFORMALLY ORGANIZED GROUP OF POLITICAL COUNSELORS AND OFFICERS AND DCM'S FROM SMALLER MISSIONS MEETS MONTHLY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON POLISH DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL NATO MISSIONS IN WARSAW (SOME ARE NOT THAT INTERESTED IN THE DOMESTIC SCENE) AND INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME NON-NATO FRIENDLY STATES (E.G., SWITZERLAND). FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS, LAST MONTH'S MEETING OF THIS GROUP WAS JOINED BY THE FRENCH POLITICAL OFFICER(FIRST SECRETARY); THE FRENCH HAD DROPPED OUT ABOUT THE TIME THE NATON CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETINGS ENDED.

2. AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE CANADIAN AND BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, AND WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH, FRG, AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR, AND MYSELF, THE NATO CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETINGS WERE RESUMED IN MAY, 1973. BEFORE THEY RESUMED, THE THEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR(JORDA, NOW IN VIENNA) WAS APPROACHED BY THE CANADIAN AND ASKED TO JOIN. HE REFUSED, CONTENDING THAT THE QUAI BELIEVED SUCH MEETINGS WERE NOT CONSONANT WITH FRANCE'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH POLAND. (TO POLAND'S ROLE IN THIS RELATIONSHIP, ONE HIGH POLISH OFFICIAL -- AND FORMER POLISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE -- RECENTLY APPLIED THE JUDGMENT WHICH THE POLES FORMED AFTER THE NAPOLEONIC WARS: "TOUJOURS FIDELE; TOUJOURS DECUE" THE OTHER ELEVEN NATO COM'S HAVE SINCE MET REGULARLY ONCE A MONTH (USUALLY ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH), ALTERNATING AMONG THE AMERICAN, BRITISH, AND CANADIAN ACOUSTICAL CONFERENCE ROOMS. IN THE ABSENSE OF AN AMBASSADOR, CHARGES DO NOT ATTEND. IN HONOR OF OUR ABSENT COLLEAGUE, THE CHAIRMANSHP OF MEETING ROTATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRENCH ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF THE NAMES OF THE STATES REPRESENTED. ALL TEN OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION THAT THESE MEETINGS HAVE RESUMED AND THEIR GRATIFICATION

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THAT WE NOW HAVE A FORUM, OTHER THAN THE COCKTAIL CIRCUIT, IN WHICH WE CAN EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND VIEWS. THE LEVEL OF CANDOR HAS BEEN HIGH. THE MEETINGS ARE ALSO USED TO CONCERT A NATO (MINUS ONE) VIEW ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROTOCOLARY PROBLEMS.

3. WHEN THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR (DAUGE) ARRIVED HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

INVITED HIM TO JOINING OUR MEETINGS. AFTER HAVING CHECKED WITH THE QUAI, DAUGE TOLD US THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO HIS PARTICIPATION, BUT THAT THE QUAI FELT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR HIM NOW TO JOIN THIS ALREADY ESTABLISHED BODY. PERHAPS IT WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO FIND A CONVENIENT TIME IN THE FUTURE FOR HIM TO JOIN. (IT WAS FOLLOWING THIS EXCHANGE THAT THE FRENCH FIRST SECRETARY JOINED THE POLITICAL OFFICERS GROUP.)

4. OF COURSE, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT WE MEET; PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE BY CAR WITH FLAGS FLYING. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION TO ANY OF US BY ANY POLISH OFFICIAL OF THAT KNOWLEDGE.

5. NOR AM I AWARE THAT ANY OF THE SIX PARTICIPATING COLLEAGUES OF THE EC-9 HAS RECEIVED ANY OBJECTION FROM HIS FOREIGN OFFICE TO THESE NATO MEETINGS.

6. I CONSIDER THESE MEETINGS VALUABLE BOTH FOR THE INFORMATION IMPARTED (E.G., DEBRIEFING ON OFFICIAL VISITS; FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRG AMBASSADOR HAS KEPT US FULLY INFORMED ON THE VEXED COURSE OF FRG-POLISH NEGOTIATIONS) AND AS AN ACTIVITY BY MEANS OF WHICH OUR ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP TAKES ON MORE THAN TOKEN CHARACTER. THE CHIEFS OF THE SMALLER MISSION (BELGIAN, DANISH, DUTCH, GREEK, NORWEGIAN, AND TURKISH) OBVIOUSLY BENEFIT MORE THAN THOSE OF US WHOSE STAFFS ARE LARGER, AND FREQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS DEBT. ON THE OTHER HAND, EACH OF THE SMALLER-MISSION CHIEFS HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION AT ONE TIME OR THE OTHER.

7. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DAUGE HAS INFORMALLY INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY REGRETS HIS ABSENCE AND HOPES A
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WAY WILL BE FOUND TO ENABLE HIM TO JOIN. MEANWHILE, SOME OF US ARE RELIEVED THAT WE DO NOT HAVE TO MEET IN THE FRENCH ACOUSTICAL CONFERENCE ROOM. DOUBTS PERSIST ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THIS ROOM, DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MICROPHONES FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN 1972.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY PLANS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WARSAW01012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740214/aaaaamzg.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) STATE 28873; (B) WARSAW 0911; (C,) STATE 34206
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS BY US MISSIONS OVERSEAS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIANCE NATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005